

PREScribed FORESTRY

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 409



PREScribed FORESTRY

Prescribed forestry is the management of forested areas for forest health, wood and/or fiber, water, recreation, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and plant biodiversity.

Note: This practice may be rescinded in 2009

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Prescribed forestry activities to achieve the intended purpose(s) are designed according to a specific forest prescription. This prescription addresses the owner's objectives while perpetuating a sustainable forest ecosystem based on ecological parameters such as forest types, soil types, past harvest history, natural community types, and successional trends.

The forest prescription often includes the following items:

- Timing and use of equipment for management of the forest area so that site productivity is maintained, soil disturbance is minimized, and water quality is maintained or improved.
- Slash, debris, and vegetative material left on site do not present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard.

- Trails and landings are maintained to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation.
- Consideration is given to planting new vegetation or managing existing vegetation to provide wildlife food and cover.
- The prescription will be developed for a period of at least 10 years.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

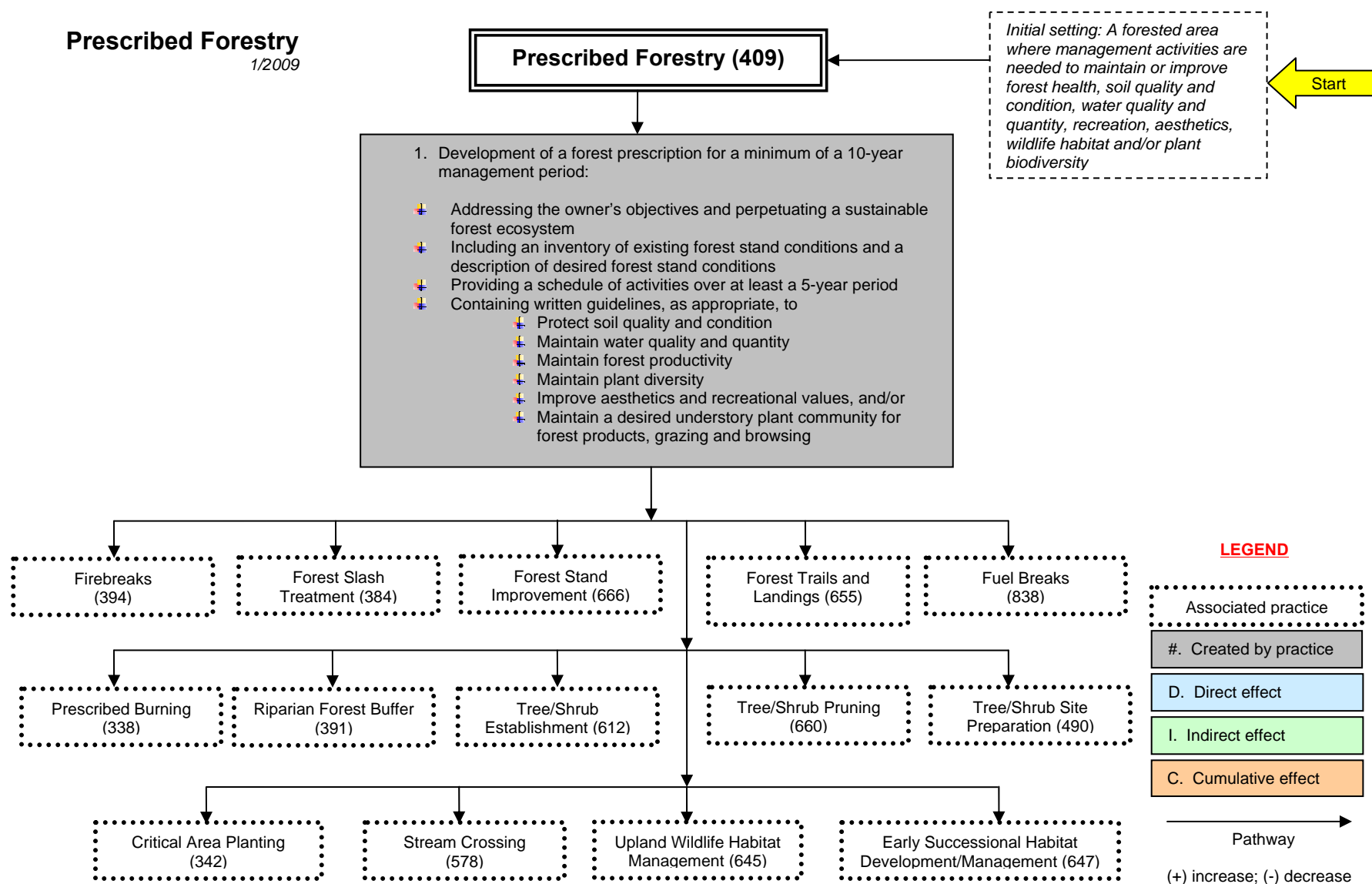
Prescribed Forestry is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices: Firebreaks (394), Forest Slash Treatment (384), Forest Stand Improvement (666), Forest Trails and Landings (655), Fuel Breaks (383), Prescribed Burning (338), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Critical Area Planting (342), Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647), Stream Crossing (578), and Upland/Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (645/644).

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and job sheets.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

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1/2009



Notes: Specific conservation practices to be implemented are dependent upon site conditions and landowner objectives. Additional practices not listed above may be used in the development and application of an individual forest prescription. See network diagrams for individual component practice impacts, e.g. Forest Stand Improvement (666).

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.